considerable easing of liquidity constraints. Interest rates on 91 days and 364 days treasury bills have also come down because of comfortable liquidity with the banks. Between April-June 1997, sanctions of financial assistance by the All India Financial Institutions have also recorded a growth of 4.7 per cent.

The above measures are likely to have a favourable impact on industrial growth in the current year.

Problems faced by Japanese Companies

2753. SHRI SYDAIAH KOTA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Japanese companies set up in the country have been facing peculiar kinds of difficulties including demand by locals to give them employment;

(b) if so, the detailss thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures taken to ensure that investment from that country is not discouraged?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) The Government is committed to facilitating the implementation of projects involving Foreign Direct Investment that have been approved. Accordingly, Government has taken a number of steps which include interaction with investors and State Governments to identify bottlenecks and problem areas and thereby attempt to have them resolved. This would apply to all countries including Japan. Wherever required, appropriate steps are taken so as to have an open, transparent and investor-friendly approval mechanism and to expeditiously resolve problems.

Government has received feed back that Chief Executives of several Japanese companies are having a positive assessment of the economic reforms in India. They now recognise that India represents a huge market with a growing demand base.

Incentives Under the Deemed Exports Clause

2754. SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have withdrawn the incentives under the deemed exports clause to the supplies for notified projects in the power, oil and gas sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The deemed exports benefits for supplied of goods to the Power, Oil and Gas Sectors are available as per Paragarph 10.2(g) of EXIM Policy (1997-2002) and corresponding Paragraph 10.11 of Handbook Vol.I (1997-2002). These Paragraphes have been further amended vide Notification No. 10 dated 29.7.97 and Public Notice No. 29 dated 29.7.97 respectively, there by also extending such benefits to Refinery Projects.

[Translation]

Export of Iron Ore

2755. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of iron ore exported to foreign countries from the iron ore mines of Madhya Pradesh during the last three years; and

(b) the rates separately on which this iron ore was exported?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) The quantum of exports from iron ore Mines of Madhya Pradesh in the last three years is as under:

(Qty: Lakh MT)

	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
Lumps	26.58	26.97	22.04
Fines	15.26	13.13	15.81
Total:	41.84	40.10	37.85

(b) The rates at which iron ore was exported during the last three years are as under:

(Val: US $/Tonne)

(F.O.B. Vizag Port)

	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
Lumps	20.85	22.49	23.61
Fines	16.02	16.95	17.96

[English]

Dearness Allowance

2756. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to release one instalment of Dearness Allowance to the Central Government Servants in view of price rise and increase in price index;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be released; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (c) Dearness Allowance to Central Government employees is revised twice a year from 1st January and 1st July payable with the salary for the months of March and September respectively. The decision regarding another instalment of Dearness Allowance effective from 1.7.1997 will be taken well before it is payable in September, 1997.